

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10409 291747Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9240

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E. O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AMERICAN CHANGE OF GAUGE

REF: STATE 068320

1. LETTER EMBODYING U.S. POSITION AS STATED REF A
WAS SENT TO QUAI D'ORSAY ON MARCH 22.

2. IN COURSE OF MARCH 28 DISCUSSION ON TWA'S PROBLEMS
(SEE PARIS 10271) CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE OBSERVED TO CIVIL
AIR ATTACHE THAT THE GOF DID NOT ACCEPT THE IDEA THAT
THE US HAS AN INTRINSIC RIGHT TO UNDERTAKE CHANGE OF
GAUGE IN A THIRD COUNTRY. UNLESS SUCH A CHANGE
WAS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY THE BILATERAL, SHE
CONTINUED, FRANCE WOULD NOT PERMIT IT.

3. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE, FURTHERMORE, WAS UPSET BY THE
IDEA (PARA 2C REFTTEL) THAT WE MIGHT BE ATTEMPTING TO
LINK THIS PAN AMERICAN QUESTION WITH THE WASHINGTON-
MEXICO BLIND SECTOR RIGHTS FOR AIR FRANCE (IN
EXCHANGE FOR CONTINUATION OF TWA'S GENEVA-NICE OPERATION)
SHE MAINTAINED THAT THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE
CONCEPTS INVOLVED -- BLIND SECTOR RIGHTS AND OPERA-
TIONAL NEEDS

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OF AIRLINES ARE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT QUESTIONS
WHICH FRANCE WILL NOT ALLOW TO BE JOINED.

4. COMMENT: BASED ON CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE'S REMARKS
(WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM
DGAC) THE FRENCH APPEAR FAIRLY ADAMANT THAT THEY ARE
NOT GOING TO PERMIT THE TYPE OF OPERATION PANAM IS

PRESENTLY PROPOSING. WE POINTED OUT TO HER THAT THE
US CONCEPT OF INTRINSIC RIGHTS COULD WORK IN BOTH
DIRECTIONS; THAT IS, IF AIR FRANCE WANTED TO MAKE A
CHANGE OF GAUGE ON ITS NORTH AMERICAN SERVICE IT
WOULD NOT REQUIRE SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION. HOWEVER,
SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE ONLY CIRCUMSTANCE IN WHICH
THIS MIGHT BE OF INTEREST (MONTREAL-CHICAGO) WAS
SO REMOTE THAT IT WAS NOT WORTH TALKING ABOUT.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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